

Weekly Update, January 3, 2022

Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator Covid Update

1. The total number of Covid cases for this past week not including the weekend was 37, compared with the 41 of the previous week which was missing two days of data. The 37 also does not include any cases reported to the school department. We with a positivity rating over the last 14 days at 8.82%, up from the 6.48% of last week. Plymouth County is at 10.59%, more than the 8.81% of last week. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 18.42% more than double from last week at 8.32%. These numbers do not include home tests not reported to the state. Numbers are increasing across the board as colder weather arrives and people spend more time indoors. Numbers are expected to continue rising after the Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

Omicron variant is here. Early data is still that Omicron is significantly more transmissible than the Delta Variant, but that vaccinated individuals with the Omicron variant experience mild to no symptoms and are not hospitalized. Moderna announced that the Moderna booster is effective against the Omicron variant. At this point, being vaccinated is a much better defense than not being vaccinated, so please, if you have not yet gotten vaccinated and can receive the vaccine, we urge you to do so. Vaccinations and booster are widely available. Go to [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) for details. Individuals 18 and over are eligible for a Moderna Booster and 16 and over for a Pfizer booster. You are eligible for a booster 6 months after getting your second Pfizer/Moderna shot and 2 months after a J&J shot. The FDA is expected to approve boosters for children age 11-15 as early as today, then it will need CDC approval to become effective.

Governor Baker issued new guidance in response to the Omicron variant and rising COVID numbers. In response to the spread of the Delta variant and the emerging Omicron variant, the Department of Public Health now advises that all residents, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask or face covering when indoors (and not in your own home). The DPH particularly urges this recommendation if you have a weakened immune system, or if you are at increased risk for severe disease because of your age or an underlying medical condition, or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated.

We do not have any testing kits at this time, however the school department did receive some for their teachers.

In addition, as of 12/27/21 all hospitals in the Commonwealth have been directed to postpone or cancel all nonessential elective procedures likely to result in inpatient admission in order to maintain and increase inpatient capacity.

There are new quarantine guidelines available on [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov).

2. Widow's Walk renovation continues and the floors are going in and will be done shortly. You can now walk your dogs, but please stay off the greens and pickup after your dogs. There are barrels available.

3. We have a high tide today at 11:15 AM this morning, coupled with increasing winds could lead to some minor flooding and splash over in low lying areas. Use caution in those areas. We also may get a dusting of snow this afternoon.

Karen Canfield, Select Board Vice Chair

Many meetings will be returning to remote Zoom meetings. The Select Board is meeting tomorrow night (January 4th at 6:30 PM) and will continue its review of the FY23 Budget that began last year. We will also be receiving a presentation on financing options for our water treatment plant.

Other meetings this week include: Affordable Housing Trust Wednesday at 5:30 PM, 6:30 Capital Plan, and Waterways at 7 PM (in person at the Senior Center). On Thursday Advisory meets at 7 PM as well as the SHARC committee which is reviewing proposals for the Scituate Harbor Community Building.

Please keep safe, wear your masks and stay home if you're not feeling well.